



From the Pastor's Desk



Lent, My Favorite Time Of the Year

I am not certain when it happened, but Lent has for many years been by favorite time of year. I believe I picked up Lent as a favorite during my days in Westminster Abbey - my first three years in seminary formation. The liturgy, the food, the disciplines of Lent all pointed to a new beginning, a springtime, new life through prayer and work. The seminary I attended for three years was run by the Order of St. Benedict who was the father of monastic living. St. Benedict had a rule for his communities as they developed, rules that can help us who are not living in monastic situations.

Rule of St. Benedict - Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God, and our ears to the voice from heaven that everyday calls out this charge - If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Rule of St. Benedict - Keep death before you daily.

Motto of St. Benedict - Work and Prayer

Lent Can Be A Magnificent U Turn In Our Lives.

Prayerful reflection will point out to us areas of our lives that could, in the words of my hip surgeon, "need a redo". As much as we can, let these six weeks not be just like any other six weeks, but rather, a time to see what needs renewal in our relationships, self care, prayer, and good works. Lent is a time to see how our personal renewal can help the on-going conversions of the community.

Lent can be a time of giving up something, but it can also be a time of giving generously. A few years ago, I received a letter from a family whose son was active in our parish. They enclosed a check for the parish, saying we always taught our children not to give up something, but to give generously to a cause that would make a difference.

A good Lenten Season for all of us.

Fr. Jack